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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION

DMYTRO VEROVKN,) No. C 07-3987 CW
Plaintiff,) NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION
v.) FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT
DAVID N. STILL, District Director, United) Date: November 8, 2007
States Citizenship and Immigration) Time: 2:00 p.m.
Services,) Court: 2
Defendant.)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT on November 8, 2007, at 2:00 p.m., before the Honorable Claudia Wilken, Courtroom No. 2, 1301 Clay Street, Oakland, California 94612, Defendant David N. Still, by his attorneys, Scott N. Schools, United States Attorney for the Northern District of California, and Melanie L. Proctor, Assistant United States Attorney, will move this Court for an order granting summary judgment to Defendants on Plaintiffs' Complaint for Declaratory Relief pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56.

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NOTICE OF MOTION
No. C 07-3987 CW

Defendant's Motion is based on this notice, the points and authorities in support of this motion, the attached exhibit, the pleadings on file in this matter, and on such oral argument as the Court may permit.

Dated: October 1, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

SCOTT N. SCHOOLS
United States Attorney

/s/
MELANIE L. PROCTOR
Assistant United States Attorney
Attorney for Defendants

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION

DMYTRO VEROVKN,) No. C 07-3987 CW
Plaintiff,) DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR
v.) SUMMARY JUDGMENT
DAVID N. STILL, District Director, United) Date: November 8, 2007
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I. INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff Dmytro Verovkin (“Plaintiff”) asks the Court to require Defendant to reopen and adjudicate his application for adjustment of status, arguing that because he was under the age of twenty-one at the time of his entry, he is eligible for permanent resident status. Contrary to Plaintiff’s contentions, there is no provision of law that allows Plaintiff to adjust his status. Accordingly, Defendant is entitled to summary judgment as a matter of law.

II. FACTS

Plaintiff entered the United States on April 25, 2004, on a K-2 visa. Complaint, p. 3 ¶¶ 8, 9. On June 4, 2004, Plaintiff's mother married Ronald Monks, a United States citizen. *Id.*, ¶10. On July 23, 2004, Plaintiff's visa expired. Exh. A. Plaintiff and his mother applied to adjust their status

1 to lawful permanent residents on September 14, 2005, over fifteen months after becoming eligible
 2 to do so. Complaint, p. 3 ¶ 11. On October 16, 2005, Plaintiff turned twenty-one years of age. *Id.*
 3 pp. 2-3 ¶ 6; Exh. A, Box 10.

4 **III. GENERAL PRINCIPLES APPLICABLE TO THIS MOTION**

5 A. LEGAL STANDARD

6 Summary judgment is appropriate when the “pleadings, depositions, answers to
 7 interrogatories, and admissions on file, together with the affidavits, if any, show that there is no
 8 genuine issue as to any material fact and that the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter
 9 of law.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c). An issue is genuine only if there is sufficient evidence for a
 10 reasonable fact finder to find for the non-moving party. See Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477
 11 U.S. 242, 248-49 (1986). A fact is material if the fact may affect the outcome of the case. See id.
 12 at 248. The Ninth Circuit has declared that “[i]n considering a motion for summary judgment, the
 13 court may not weigh the evidence or make credibility determinations, and is required to draw all
 14 inferences in a light most favorable to the non-moving party.” Freeman v. Arpaio, 125 F.3d 732,
 15 735 (9th Cir. 1997). A principal purpose of the summary judgment procedure is to identify and
 16 dispose of factually unsupported claims. See Celotex Corp. v. Cattrett, 477 U.S. 317, 323-24 (1986).

17 B. ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS

18 An alien who is the fiancee of a United States citizen and who seeks to enter the United
 19 States solely to conclude a valid marriage with the petitioner within ninety days of her entry may
 20 receive a nonimmigrant visa. 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(K)(i). Once the marriage is contracted within
 21 the statutory time period, the “K-1” beneficiary and her minor children may apply for adjustment
 22 of status. 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(k)(6)(ii). The applications may be filed as soon as the marriage is
 23 contracted. Id. Section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, codified at 8 U.S.C. § 1255,
 24 authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (“Secretary”)¹ to adjust the status
 25

26 ¹On March 1, 2003, the Department of Homeland Security and its United States Citizenship
 27 and Immigration Services assumed responsibility for the adjustment program. 6 U.S.C. § 271(b).
 28 Accordingly, the discretion formerly vested in the Attorney General is now vested in the Secretary
 of Homeland Security. 6 U.S.C. § 551(d).

1 certain aliens who have been admitted into the United States. The subsection applicable to the case
 2 at hand provides:

3 **Alien admitted for permanent residence on conditional basis; fiancee or fianceé
 4 of citizen . . .** The [Secretary] may not adjust, under subsection (a) of this section, the
 5 status of a nonimmigrant alien [with a K visa] except to that of an alien lawfully
 6 admitted to the United States on a conditional basis under section 1186a of this title
 as a result of the marriage of the nonimmigrant (or, in the case of a minor child, the
 parent) to the citizen

7 8 U.S. § 1255(d). The section does not require applicants to have approved immigrant visa petitions.
 8 After two years, the conditional resident status may be lifted. 8 U.S.C. § 1186a. A minor alien who
 9 seeks to adjust his status on the basis of his parent's marriage to a United States citizen must apply
 10 as an alien accompanying or following to join primary applicant for adjustment of status. 8 U.S.C.
 11 § 1101(a)(15)(K)(iii); 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(k)(6)(ii).

12 IV. ANALYSIS

13 A. PLAINTIFF IS INELIGIBLE FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS

14 Plaintiff asserts that he is entitled to permanent residency in the United States. See
 15 Complaint, p. 1. He acknowledges that he reached majority age after filing his I-485 application for
 16 adjustment of status, see Complaint, p. 2-3 ¶¶ 6 and 11, but argues that because he was under the
 17 age of twenty one at the time of his entry into the United States, his status should be adjusted to that
 18 of a lawful permanent resident. Complaint, p. 1.

19 Contrary to Plaintiff's assertions, he has aged out of eligibility for adjustment of status. In
 20 fact, Plaintiff's visa expired on July 23, 2004. See Exh. A. Moreover, his adjustment application
 21 was dependent upon that of his mother. Complaint, p. 3 ¶¶ 11-12. Accordingly, his eligibility relied
 22 upon his status as a minor. However, at the point Plaintiff's mother adjusted her status, Plaintiff was
 23 no longer under the age of twenty-one. Complaint, p. 2-3 ¶¶ 6, 13. Nothing in immigration law
 24 "freezes" a K-2 visa applicant's age at the point he enters the United States, or even at the point he
 25 applies for permanent residency. Contra Child Status Protection Act, Pub. L. No. 107-208, 116 Stat.
 26 927, §§ 2, 3 (Aug. 6, 2002) ("CSPA"), codified at 8 U.S.C. §§ 1151, 1153. CSPA unambiguously
 27 limits its application to immigrant visa petitions filed under 8 U.S.C. § 1154. 8 U.S.C. §§ 1151(f);
 28 1153(h). Here, Petitioner's mother never received an immigrant visa petition because K-1

1 adjustment applicants do not ever apply for such visas. 8 U.S.C. § 1255(d).

2 The United States Supreme Court has declared that “[w]here Congress includes particular
 3 language in one section of a statute but omits in another section of the same Act, it is generally
 4 presumed that Congress acts intentionally and purposely in the disparate inclusion or exclusion.”
 5 Russello v. United States, 464 U.S. 16, 23 (1983). The sections applicable to Plaintiff do not include
 6 the language preserving his minor status on the date he entered the United States, or even the date
 7 he applied for adjustment of status. 8 U.S.C. §§ 1101(a)(15)(K)(iii); 1255(d). Accordingly, it is
 8 clear that Congress has declined to extend “child status” to the children of K-1 immigrants.

9 Furthermore, even if the Court were persuaded that § 1153(h) applies to Plaintiff’s case, it
 10 does not operate to preserve his minor status. The section specifically provides that it operates only
 11 if the alien applies for adjustment of status within one year of the availability of an immigrant visa.
 12 8 U.S.C. § 1153(h)(1). Thus, even if the Court were to decide that by operation of his mother’s
 13 marriage, a fictional immigrant visa became “available” to Plaintiff on June 4, 2004, Plaintiff still
 14 applied for adjustment of status over one year after his mother married Ronald Monks. See
 15 Complaint, p. 3 ¶¶ 10-11. That fifteen month delay disqualifies Plaintiff from preserving his
 16 “minor” status. 8 U.S.C. § 1153(h).

17 Moreover, Plaintiff does not qualify for adjustment under § 1255(a). That subsection
 18 requires that the applicant be eligible for an immigrant visa at the time the application is adjudicated.
 19 8 U.S.C. § 1255(a). Here, at the time the application was adjudicated, Plaintiff did not have an
 20 immigrant visa available to him. Plaintiff is not exempt from numerical limitations on visa
 21 availability, pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1151(b), because he is not an immediate relative of a United
 22 States citizen. An immediate relative normally includes the child of a United States citizen;
 23 however, in the case of the step-parent/step-child relationship, immigration law recognizes only
 24 those relationships formed prior to the putative child’s eighteenth birthday. 8 U.S.C.
 25 § 1101(b)(1)(B).

26 Plaintiff is also not eligible for adjustment based on his mother’s lawful permanent resident
 27 status. Plaintiff’s mother has apparently never filed an immediate relative visa petition on his
 28 behalf; even had she done so, there would not have been an immigrant visa immediately available

to him as the unmarried son of a lawful permanent resident. In April 2006, the priority date for such visas was March 1, 2002. U.S. Dep’t of State Visa Bulletin, Vol. VIII, No. 92 (Apr. 2006). The current priority date for such visas is November 15, 2002. U.S. Dep’t of State Visa Bulletin, Vol. VIII, No. 111 (Oct. 2007). As such, Plaintiff is clearly ineligible for adjustment of status. See, e.g., Jiang v. Still, No. CV-F-06-0369-LJO-NEW, 2007 WL 685700, at *3 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 5, 2007) (granting defendant’s motion for summary judgment and finding that K-2 visa applicant was no longer eligible for adjustment of status).

V. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Defendant respectfully requests the Court to grant his motion for summary judgment.

Dated: October 1, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

SCOTT N. SCHOOLS
United States Attorney

/s/
MELANIE L. PROCTOR
Assistant. U.S. Attorney
Attorneys for Defendant